

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A unit for forming a tobacco bead, the unit (1) comprising a forming conveyor (3) for conveying a tobacco bead (2); and a shaving device (21) coordinated with said forming conveyor (3) to remove a surplus tobacco portion (22) off the tobacco bead (2), and comprising two mutually cooperating, rotary shaving disks (23); wherein the two shaving disks (23) have relevant cutting edges (28) substantially tangent to each other; the unit (1) being characterized in that the shaving device (21) comprises comprising a frame supporting two independent electric motors (32), each of which comprises a respective shaft (29) supporting and operating the respective shaving disk (23); and a control unit (38) electrically connected to the two electric motors (32) for activating the two electric motors (32) to impart a respective given angular speed to each shaving disk (23).

33. (Previously presented) The unit of Claim 32, wherein the control unit (38) activates the two electric motors (32) to impart a same angular speed to the shaving disks (23).

34. (Previously presented) The unit of Claim 32, wherein the control unit (38) activates the two electric motors (32) to impart two different angular speeds to the shaving disks (23).

35. (Previously presented) The unit of Claim 32, and further comprising a first sensor means for determining a density of the tobacco in the tobacco bead (2); the control unit (38) activating the two

electric motors (32) to impart to each shaving disk (23) a respective given angular speed which is a function of the density of the tobacco.

36. (Previously presented) The unit of Claim 32, and further comprising a second sensor means (41) for determining a linear travelling speed (VL) of the forming conveyor (3); the control unit (38) activating the two electric motors (32) to impart to each shaving disk (23) a respective given angular speed which is a function of the linear travelling speed (VL).

37. (Previously presented) The unit of Claim 32, and further comprising a third sensor means (40) for determining a mass of tobacco per unit of length of the tobacco bead (2); the control unit (38) activating the two electric motors (32) to impart to each shaving disk (23) a respective given angular speed which is a function of the mass of tobacco per unit of length of the tobacco bead (2).

38. (Previously presented) The unit of Claim 32, and further comprising a pressing device for compacting portions (14) of the tobacco bead (2) equally spaced with a given spacing (15); the pressing device comprising a lobed wheel (11), and a further electric motor (17) for rotating the lobed wheel (11) at a given angular speed (VA).

39. (New) A unit for forming a tobacco bead, the unit (1) comprising a forming conveyor (3) for conveying a tobacco bead (2); and a shaving device (21) coordinated with said forming conveyor (3) to remove a surplus tobacco portion (22) off the tobacco bead (2), and comprising two rotary shaving disks (23); the shaving device (21) comprising a frame supporting two independent electric motors (32), each of which comprises a respective shaft (29) supporting and operating the respective shaving disk (23); and a control unit (38) for activating the two electric motors (32) to impart a respective given angular speed to each shaving disk (23); the unit further comprising a first sensor means for determining a density of the tobacco in the tobacco bead (2); the control unit (38) activating the two electric

motors (32) to impart to each shaving disk (23) a respective given angular speed which is a function of the density of the tobacco.

40. (New) A unit for forming a tobacco bead, the unit (1) comprising a forming conveyor (3) for conveying a tobacco bead (2); and a shaving device (21) coordinated with said forming conveyor (3) to remove a surplus tobacco portion (22) off the tobacco bead (2), and comprising two rotary shaving disks (23); the shaving device (21) comprising a frame supporting two independent electric motors (32), each of which comprises a respective shaft (29) supporting and operating the respective shaving disk (23); and a control unit (38) for activating the two electric motors (32) to impart a respective given angular speed to each shaving disk (23); the unit further comprising a second sensor means (41) for determining a linear travelling speed (VL) of the forming conveyor (3); the control unit (38) activating the two electric motors (32) to impart to each shaving disk (23) a respective given angular speed which is a function of the linear travelling speed (VL).

41. (New) A unit for forming a tobacco bead, the unit (1) comprising a forming conveyor (3) for conveying a tobacco bead (2); and a shaving device (21) coordinated with said forming conveyor (3) to remove a surplus tobacco portion (22) off the tobacco bead (2), and comprising two rotary shaving disks (23); the shaving device (21) comprising a frame supporting two independent electric motors (32), each of which comprises a respective shaft (29) supporting and operating the respective shaving disk (23); and a control unit (38) for activating the two electric motors (32) to impart a respective given angular speed to each shaving disk (23); the unit further comprising a third sensor means (40) for determining a mass of tobacco per unit of length of the tobacco bead (2); the control unit (38) activating the two electric motors (32) to impart to each shaving disk (23) a respective given angular speed which is a function of the mass of tobacco per unit of length of the tobacco bead (2).

42. (New) A unit for forming a tobacco bead, the unit (1) comprising a forming conveyor (3) for conveying a tobacco bead (2); and a shaving device (21) coordinated with said forming conveyor (3) to remove a surplus tobacco portion (22) off the tobacco bead (2), and comprising two rotary shaving disks (23); the shaving device (21) comprising a frame supporting two independent electric motors (32), each of which comprises a respective shaft (29) supporting and operating the respective shaving disk (23); and a control unit (38) for activating the two electric motors (32) to impart a respective given angular speed to each shaving disk (23); the unit further comprising a pressing device for compacting portions (14) of the tobacco bead (2) equally spaced with a given spacing (15); the pressing device comprising a lobed wheel (11), and a further electric motor (17) for rotating the lobed wheel (11) at a given angular speed (VA).